

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

IN RESPONSE TO

Senate resolution of December 17, 1894, transmitting information relative to the Cuban tariff on breadstuffs, and the receipts and prices of flour in Cuba.

JANUARY 17, 1895.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

The Secretary of State, to whom was addressed the resolution of the Senate of December 17, 1894, requesting him "to inform the Senate, if not compatible with the interests of the public service, concerning the rates of duty imposed upon flour and other breadstuffs imported from the United States into the Island of Cuba prior to the 1st of September last and subsequent to that date; that he be requested also to obtain from the United States consul-general at Havana a statement showing the retail price of flour in that city for the twelve months prior and the three months subsequent to that date; also, the number of barrels and bags of flour imported into Havana from the United States and from other countries, stated separately, for the months of September, October, November, and December, 1893, and the corresponding months of 1894 to date," has the honor, by direction of the President, to transmit herewith a copy of a dispatch from the consul-general of the United States at Havana (No. 2399) of the 5th instant, containing the desired information.

Respectfully submitted.

W. Q. GRESHAM.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, January 15, 1895.

Mr. Williams to Mr. Uhl.

No. 2399.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE-GENERAL,
Havana, January 5, 1895. (Received January 10.)

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Department's instruction, No. 1017, of the 19th ultimo, inclosing copy of the Senate resolution of the 17th of the same month relative to the duty imposed on flour imported into Cuba from the United States and its prices in Havana before and after the 1st of September last, in answer to which I have the honor to report as follows:

First. The rates of duties on flour and other breadstuffs imported from the United States under the recent reciprocity treaty, up to the 28th of August last, the date of the termination of said treaty, were as follows:

[Spanish gold, per 100 kilos.]

Wheat.....	\$0.30
Flour.....	1.00
Corn.....	.25
Meal.....	.25

Besides, there was levied a wharfage charge of 25 cents per ton on the above articles, in favor of the board of Havana harbor works.

Second. Since the above-stated date of August 28 last, on the going into force of the tariff of the United States, and consequent termination of the reciprocity treaty between the United States and Spain for Cuba, flour and other breadstuffs of the United States became thereon subject to the highest and following duties of the Cuban tariff:

[Spanish gold per 100 kilos.]

Wheat.....	\$3.95
Flour.....	4.75
Corn.....	3.95
Meal.....	4.75

All these articles, from whatever country, pay in addition \$1 per ton for unloading to the insular treasury and 25 cents to the board of Havana harbor works.

Third. The retail prices have been too varied for quotation. The average wholesale prices of flour during the twelve months preceding the 28th of August, 1894, were from \$4.25 to \$6.75 per bag, according to quality.

Fourth. The average wholesale prices of flour from the 28th of August, 1894, to date have been from \$5.40 to \$8.50 per bag, according to quality.

Fifth. The number of bags of flour imported into Havana from the United States during the last four months of the years 1892, 1893, and 1894 are as follows:

	Bags.
1892.....	156,110
1893.....	105,043
1894.....	12,995

Sixth. During the months of September, October, November, and December of 1894, the number of bags of flour imported into Havana from other countries than the United States has been 54,122 bags.

Seventh. Under the present Cuban tariff the following are the rates of duties per 100 kilos collected on flour and other breadstuffs from different countries, the highest being levied on the products of the United States:

	From United States, not having commercial agreement with Spain.	From Canada and other countries having commercial agreements with Spain.
Wheat.....	\$3.95	\$3.15
Flour.....	4.75	4.00
Corn.....	3.95	3.15
Meal.....	4.75	4.00

From Spain all are free, trade from the mother country to Cuba being considered as coastwise; but not so from Cuba to the mother country.

I accompany copy of and translation of the order of the intendant-general, dated the 28th of August, 1894, imposing the highest rates of duties of the Cuban tariff, with its special imposts, on all merchandise and products of the United States, from that date inclusive.

It is to be observed, however, that the increased duties imposed on American breadstuffs since the 28th of August, 1894, have not been imposed by Spanish legislation had subsequent to that date, but under the present Cuban tariff, which went into operation simultaneously with the definite reciprocity treaty between the United States and Spain for Cuba, on the 1st of July, 1892, which tariff subjects the merchandise of all countries not having commercial treaties with Spain to the duties of its first column.

In conclusion, I beg to observe that there is no bureau of statistics attached to the Cuban Government, and that the statistics herein given are collected from and collated with private sources.

I am, etc.,

RAMON O. WILLIAMS,
Consul-General.

[Inclosure 1 in No. 2399—Translation.]

INTENDANCY-GENERAL OF THE TREASURY,
Havana, August 28, 1894.

This intendancy-general, complying with telegraphic orders from his excellency the minister for the colonies, directs that the new tariff of the United States having gone into force on this same date, the merchandise and products of that country be appraised from this date under column 1 of the tariff of this island, with the collection besides of all special imposts.

God guard you many years.

MIGUEL CABAZAS.

To the collector of ———

S. Ex. 1—42



